

Application No. 10/029,162
Attorney Docket No. 15-DS-00544 (13048US01)

REMARKS

The present application includes claims 1-53. Claims 1-53 were rejected. By this Amendment, claims 7, 10, 34, 37 are amended and claims 8-9, 13, 24-27, 35-36, 39, and 47-50 are cancelled.

Claims 1-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Killcommons et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,424,996).

Claims 7 and 34 were amended to recite pre-processing functions and post-processing functions.

Claims 10 and 37 were amended to recite unprocessed data.

The Applicant now turns to the rejection of claims 1-53 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Killcommons. Killcommons relates to a medical network system and method for transfer of information. More particularly, Killcommons describes transferring medical data from a modality 12 to a server 20 for storage, and subsequently transferring the stored medical data from the server 20 to a user unit 50 for viewing.

The server 20 includes "a processing unit 24 for manipulating the data" (col. 7, lines 58-59). More particularly, the processing unit 24 may be coupled with a compression component 26 to compress the data (col. 8, lines 9-19), an encoding

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component 28 to encode the data (col. 10, lines 17-24), and/or an encryption component to encrypt the data (col. 10, lines 25-33).

The user unit 50 includes a browser 52 (col. 11, lines 18-28) and an enhancement module 54 (col. 11, lines 29-38). The enhancement module 54 includes a user interface 72 and manipulation elements 74 (col. 13, lines 7-16). The manipulation elements 74 "alter the display of information or data" (col. 13, lines 17-20). The enhancement module 54 also includes a modality control unit 78 for controlling "a plurality of modality operations, such as the settings during data acquisition" (col. 15, lines 17-29).

Killcommons describes medical data as "information acquired by a medical modality during the examination of a patient" (col. 6, lines 48-51). More particularly, Killcommons provides "radiology images" as an example of medical data (col. 6, lines 51-53).

The present application relates to medical imaging data streaming. More particularly, the present invention describes transferring unprocessed ultrasound data from an on-site ultrasound imaging system to a remote terminal (Figure 1). Unprocessed ultrasound data includes digital, unprocessed ultrasound data converted from analog ultrasonic sound waves (paragraph 22). Conversely, processed ultrasound data includes ultrasound data after pre-processing and/or post-processing (paragraph 22-24). After pre-processing and post-processing, the processed ultrasound data is converted into pixel image data using a scan converter for viewing (paragraph 25).

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More particularly, the present invention describes pre-processing as "calculating the mathematical functions to transform the ultrasound data from one form to another for example" (paragraph 22) and post-processing functions as "B-compression, dynamic range adjustments, or intensity threshold, for example" (paragraph 24).

Additionally, the present invention provides that "any type of medical imaging system" may be employed (paragraph 38), and thus, is not limited to a particular modality, such as ultrasound, for example.

As described above, the server 20 and the user unit 50 of Killcommons are not capable of performing pre-processing functions or post-processing functions. Consequently, Killcommons is limited to processed medical data. That is, Killcommons only describes transferring processed medical data from a modality 12 to a server 20 for storage, and from the server 20 to a user unit 50 for viewing.

Killcommons does not teach or suggest pre-processing functions and post-processing functions. Consequently, Killcommons does not teach or suggest unprocessed medical data. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 16, 20, 28, 43, and 51 and amended claims 7, 10, 34, and 37 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-6 depend from independent claim 1. Claims 11-12 and 14-15 depend from independent claim 10. Claims 17-19 depend from independent claim 16. Claims 21-23 depend from independent claim 20. Claims 29-33 depend from independent claim 28. Claims 38 and 40-42 depend from independent claim 37. Claims 44-46 depend from independent claim 43. Claims 52-53 depend from independent claims 51. Therefore, the

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Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 2-6, 11-12, 14-15, 17-19, 21-23, 29-33, 38, 40-42, 44-46, and 52-53 are in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-7, 10-12, 14-23, 28-34, 37-38, 40-46, and 51-53 are in condition for allowance.

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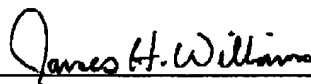
CONCLUSION

The Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or the Applicant can be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the Applicant at the number below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account of GTC, Account No. 070845.

Respectfully submitted,

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